

must now seize every single opportunity to do so because it appears time might be running out.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ON H.R. 1105, THE OMNIBUS SPENDING BILL, AND THE NEEDS TO PROTECT PRIVATE PROPERTY AND PROMOTE FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, last night Members on both sides of the aisle rose repeatedly and applauded the remarks of President Obama, who called upon the American people to show their resilience that they have on so many occasions in the past to rise above the difficulties that we face and to lead our country out of this serious economic crisis.

However, today in the light of day, this Congress has taken a very, very different approach to try to solve those problems: the big government approach.

Today, during the debate on the omnibus spending bill, I had planned to offer an amendment. My amendment would have protected the private property rights of citizens and also highlighted the philosophical differences between the Democrat majority and the Republicans. I would note that not a single amendment was made in order as a result of the vote on this nearly \$500 billion spending package. Apparently, the majority believes that government knows best and the leadership of their party in this Congress are the only ones who know best how to dole out Americans' hard-earned money and property and they have no qualms about robbing Peter to pay Paul. Despite the lip service the majority gives about the spirit of the American people, the majority's policies clearly demonstrate that they believe something quite different, that the people cannot be trusted to make the best use of their own money and property nor can they be trusted to turn our economy around.

Republicans actually believe in the American people, and they have put their policies where their mouths are. Republicans unabashedly believe that Americans know best how to control their own money and have advocated for targeted tax relief to individuals and small businesses to help the economy by putting money back into the hands of Americans.

In addition, Republicans believe that the right of private property is a fundamental right that the founders of this

Nation consciously sought to protect from overly zealous government bureaucrats. The need for private property protections is especially important in trying times like these when politicians get the idea that they know best the uses for Americans' money and property.

I have sponsored legislation to protect private property from aggressive government use of eminent domain powers, and that is what the amendment I offered at the Rules Committee to the omnibus spending measure would have done. My amendment would have prevented funds in this gigantic spending bill from being used to seize private property from one person to give to another. This seems simple enough, but the majority decided to block this amendment, which would have prevented the use of any of the funds in this massive nearly \$500 billion spending measure from being used for that purpose, to take people's property for private economic development purposes. But the majority decided to block the amendment and not allow a vote on the House floor. In fact, the vote to stifle debate on this amendment occurred on a purely partisan basis in the Rules Committee.

It seems clear that the majority's solution to the current economic crisis is to spend other people's money. The truth is that we are beginning to see the results that this laboratory of big government spending is producing, and it is no surprise that the results are dismal. The government simply cannot operate as efficiently nor adapt as quickly as individuals and entrepreneurs.

The likely response by the government to its own failure will be more spending, as is evident from the trillion dollar stimulus package that Congress passed 2 weeks ago as well as the nearly half trillion dollar omnibus spending bill we voted on today. There is no end in sight to the unprecedented levels of spending we are witnessing, and that is precisely why we should draw a very clear line now.

House Republicans believe that instead of spending ease, we need a spending freeze. We may now see a budget deficit of \$3 trillion this year alone. That's \$3 trillion. Divide that by the 300 million people in the United States, and it's nearly \$10,000 for each person in the country that the government will spend more than the government will take in, \$10,000 per person more that will be spent on all these massive government programs than the government will take in. This is beyond unacceptable. We need reform, and it is clear that Congress must have this reform forced upon it.

That's why over 160 bipartisan cosponsors have joined me in an attempt to force the Federal Government to rein in spending and eliminate the deficit by amending the Constitution to require it. Earlier this year I introduced a balanced budget constitutional amendment, House Joint Resolution 1.

This legislation has already garnered over 160 bipartisan cosponsors, and it requires that total Federal outlays cannot exceed total revenues. We'd have 5 years to bring this into line.

It is time we started the process of reforming the way this government spends money.

This is a simple concept but one that is lost on a congress determined to put political considerations above the common good. Simply put, this constitutional amendment would bind the hands of congress by cutting up its credit cards.

The time to act is now, and if President Obama is serious about his call to rein in spending, then he should join in our call for a balanced budget constitutional amendment to force the Federal Government to do so.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT JUSTIN BAUER AND HIS WIFE, KARI BAUER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. KISSELL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KISSELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer a tribute to Staff Sergeant Justin Bauer and his wife, Kari.

Staff Sergeant Bauer and his wife, Kari, were both from the State of Colorado. Staff Sergeant Bauer joined the Army and was assigned to the 82nd Airborne and stationed in Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Sergeant Bauer and his wife lived in my district, the Eighth District of North Carolina.

By the words of the sergeant's co-soldiers, he was a leader extraordinaire. He was a noncommissioned officer that exemplified what was meant to be in the leadership role of being a noncommissioned officer. His soldiers looked to him as a friend and a leader and, by all accounts, was an outstanding soldier in our Army.

I bring Sergeant Bauer's attention to the floor, Mr. Speaker, because Sergeant Bauer died in service to his country on January 10 in Iraq. He was a person that accepted the risk of his profession. His wife, Kari, accepted the risk of being a military spouse. And I simply want to honor his memory but not dramatize his memory because that would not be fitting to the soldiers that represent our great Nation.

And by honoring the sergeant and his wife, Kari, I also want to extend that honor to all of our military personnel that serve this Nation knowing the sacrifices that they make and that they may be asked to make the ultimate sacrifice and are willing to do that, for this is part of their job. They accept that.

Today I have a letter that I want to present as part of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD that we will be sending to Kari. But in this honoring of Justin Bauer and his wife, I also want to honor all of the military that serve this Nation and their families that make up the heart and soul of our Nation's spirit.